

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“My standing in the Church is worth to me more than this life—ten thousand times. For in this I have life everlasting. In this I have the glorious promise of the association of my loved ones throughout eternity.”—JOSEPH F. SMITH.

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A SOLUTION FOR PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS

ELDER DAVID O. MCKAY

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

FROM several different sources recently I have been asked, in one form or another, what the relation of our Church is to present-day problems. With the assistance of your sympathy and attention, and I trust with the inspiration of the Lord, I shall try to answer this question briefly this afternoon.

As you know, this is a Conference of the Ensign Stake. This stake is one of one hundred and four such divisions in the Church, and has a membership of ten thousand people. These ten thousand members are divided into eight groups, each group designated as a ward.

About one-third of this membership hold the Priesthood. They are men and boys grouped together as High Priests, Seventies, Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons. There are other groups, known as Auxiliary organizations. These ward quorums and auxiliary organizations are officered by men, women and youth. We heard this morning that in this stake there is an officer for every three members of the Church.

It is well to keep in mind these groupings in this stake as we consider briefly the question : How the Church May Aid in Solving Present-day Problems?

In the Book of Mormon I find the following admonition :

And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked ; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another. . . .

But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness ; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.

And also, ye yourselves will succour those that stand in need of your succour; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish. . . .

And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again, it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order.

This extract is taken from the Book of Mosiah. The exhortation was given by King Benjamin upon the occasion of his transferring the keeping of the records and leadership of his people to his son Mosiah.

Throughout his entire address this great leader of men emphasized this truth, viz: that one who believes in God, who sincerely desires to live in accordance with God's laws, will be impelled by motives to render helpful service to God's children. Such a man will first, he says, not have a mind to injure another; second, he will live peaceably, rendering to every man that which is his due; third, he will see that his children are properly fed and clothed, and taught to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; he will teach them to love and serve one another; fourth, he will succour those who stand in need of succour, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick; fifth, all these things must be done in wisdom and in order.

A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Church of Jesus Christ is a means of rendering this mutual service in wisdom and in order. "We are members of one great body, planted by nature in mutual love and fitted for a social life. We must consider that we are born for the good of the whole."

"The race of mankind would perish," says Sir Walter Scott, "did they cease to aid each other. We cannot exist without mutual help. All, therefore, that need aid have a right to ask it from their fellow-men; and no one who has the power of granting can refuse it without guilt."

Christ's Church is His vineyard. He invited everybody to work in that vineyard. "A lazy, indolent church," I quote, "tends toward unbelief; an earnest, busy church, in hand-to-hand conflict with sin and misery, grows stronger in faith."

Viewing the Church thus, and recognizing its divinity, as testified to by the preceding speakers, let us consider how this Church may be helpful in rendering service to their fellows by solving the perplexing problems of the day. If we stated these problems there would be many. Let us, however, name two or three of the most important.

Those uppermost in our minds are: First, Business Depression; Second, Unemployment; Third, The Growing Disregard for Law;

and Fourth, The Need of Properly Training the Children and Youth of America.

We cannot approach these problems with any pretension of giving a panacea to each. Wise men, not only of our nation, but of the world, are striving for a solution of these great problems. But we can approach them from a church standpoint, and go home from this conference perhaps with a keener determination to assist in helping our fellow-men who are in need.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is vitally interested in all these problems. The time of this occasion is too limited to go into this relationship in detail. Suffice it to say that among the "Mormons," temporal salvation—that is, economic prosperity and physical health—goes hand in hand with spiritual salvation.

Relative to the business depression, there is one angle by which we may consistently consider it. Let me approach this by reading a recommendation made by Mr. Babson, the great statistician. He offers a solution in unqualified terms. I shall read but one paragraph.

BUSINESS BAROMETERS

"If the above analysis of the situation is correct"—referring to the lack of faith in Christianity in Great Britain—"certainly preachers and churches can render a wonderful service at this time, both in England and America. More religion—rather than more legislation—is the need of the hour. The solution of Britain's economic difficulties will come, as in the past, when a great religious revival sweeps the nation. This revival may be of a different form from those of 1880-1890, but its essential purpose—namely, to arouse the faith, purposes and ambitions of men to service—must be the same. Yea, I expect to see such a revival sweep Europe and America during the next decade. It seems inevitable to anyone who studies religious and economic history:—in fact, I discussed it in the first edition of my book, 'Business Barometers,' written in 1907. It has been repeated in each of the twenty-one editions since issued.

"Hence there is nothing new in the above observation. The law of Action and Reaction has always applied to religious conditions as well as to economic conditions. The so-called Cycle Theory underlies spiritual growth. There is nothing to worry about in the present situation. Both spiritual and economic conditions will recover and be better than ever in the past. Their inter-relation, however, should fearlessly be taught. People should understand that before prosperity can return there must be a renewed interest in the spiritual life by both individuals and nations. Nations should realize that the world has always possessed raw materials and labour; but has been prosperous only when the people have been actuated by a religious faith to

use these resources for advancement and service. This is the law of life and now is the time when it should be taught in churches, schools, and colleges."

What is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints doing to foster faith generally? We might name many things associated with quorums, auxiliaries, and ward duties, but I will specify only one—the missionary work. During this depression the Church is supporting in the field approximately two thousand missionaries with a special message of faith to the world—faith in God, the Eternal Father, in His Son, Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost; faith that God is our Father, and that He has spoken in this dispensation, and that He is near us, to guide us and to help us. It is not an easy matter, to send out two thousand missionaries. Take one thousand every year, at an average cost of fifty dollars (£10) each month—six hundred thousand dollars (£120,000) expended annually on this one Church activity alone! That fifty dollars is hard to raise, sometimes, here at home. It must be sent in cash. These two thousand missionaries are out preaching faith. As they live that faith, and convert people to it, they are contributing, according to Mr. Babson, to a solution of the present-day financial depression. What effect does this missionary work have upon fathers and mothers at home? It increases their faith also.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MISSIONARY

As an illustration of this I will read to you a statement from one of the girls who left just a few months ago to contribute her mite in this great effort to establish true religion in the hearts of the children of men. I want you to see the home from which she came, as she gave it to me in an article I requested her and her classmates to write on "What it Means to Be a Missionary."

"I can see my father," she writes, "struggling along his thorny path of daily tasks to feed and clothe ten hungry children, mother and himself. I can see mother, with nervous, tired fingers, mending, serving, patching and darning to make her funds reach the end of the month. I see myself wearing made-over clothes and doing without desired toys. . . ."

"I see a busy Saturday of preparation for Sunday School and the Sabbath. Standing also in my vision is a little cup into which is placed the one-tenth on all incoming pennies during the month. Beside the cup is a nail on which hang the tithing receipts for the family. The proudest moment of each little brother and sister is to climb a chair and place his or her first self-earned tithing receipt upon the nail. . . ."

"These conditions are not changed just because I received a call to go on a mission. They are even harder to meet because now it takes even larger shoes to cover the twelve pairs of feet, etc. Fewer things can be made over because the little ones are too

large to wear a dress made from father's shirt or old suit of clothes.

"In it all I hear the answer to my question, 'How can you send me on my mission in these hard times?' And my father answered: 'We will do it by the help of the Lord.'"

And they are doing it. Just how that little sacrifice brings them closer to the Lord I think we can better understand if I relate to you another circumstance of a father whose son had been away nearly two years. The financial depression had hit the father. He was an architect. Building had ceased, and the father's income had become quite limited. A letter came from the son that he needed forty-two or forty-four dollars. The father did not have it. He did not know where to get it, but he wanted his son not to be without the necessary funds. Well, what could he do? He could do just what every true Latter-day Saint does—exercise his faith in God. To that end he and his wife, in evening prayer, prayed that the way might be opened for them to send their son the money asked for. They retired that night as usual. The next morning he went to his work, not knowing any source from which that forty dollars and more could come.

A PRAYER ANSWERED

Towards evening a man came in the office and said: "Two years ago or more you did some architectural work for me, and I could not pay you. You told me not to worry about it, to pay you whenever I wanted to. I had forgotten it until last evening. I have come here now to give you my check." The father, quite overcome, said: "How did you happen to think of this? I had forgotten it entirely." He told me he had not even thought of it. The man answered: "My wife and I were coming from Lagoon last night. Your name came up in the conversation, and it was she who asked: 'Have you ever paid him that bill?' I answered 'No,' and said: 'I will attend to that to-morrow.'" The father said: "At what time was that?" and the architect's heart filled with gratitude when he realized that it was just a few minutes after he and his wife had knelt in prayer, asking God to open the way.

Well, you may say it was a coincidence. Others may say it was merely an association of ideas when the name came up, but to that father and mother it was the direct interposition of God, and their faith in Him was more implicit than ever before.

Latter-day Saints, we may not have a panacea to relieve the present financial depression, but we can continue our work in establishing faith in the hearts of our children, increasing our own faith in the divinity of this work, bearing witness to the world of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by accepting that by which the ills and sorrows of mankind may be alleviated.

Unemployment: The question of unemployment is one with

which we can deal more directly. I have named to-day the fact that there are between three thousand and four thousand men holding the Priesthood in this stake alone. Will you picture, please, for a moment, what the condition would be in the United States to-day if from the White House there came the suggestion that in every community groups of men would unite, with the sole purpose of furnishing the unemployed with employment; each community solving its own difficulties in that regard, as far as possible. Think of the millions of men whose minds would be turned to that one thing, and who could act in an organized capacity.

SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Well, some such suggestion has already gone forth that this is a community problem, and to a great extent, solve it as such. Here in the Church of Christ such groups are already organized, and have been in the Church for one hundred years. We ask now that during this period of unemployment, as we approach another winter—that these quorum groups meet in their activity meeting weekly; that they make inquiry of the membership of their group, list the names of their brethren who are unemployed, ascertain what work each can do, then in that weekly meeting ask for those who can furnish employment for their brethren during the week. The jobs thus secured may provide only temporary employment, it is true, but three dollars, six dollars, twelve dollars, for one, two, three or four days' work, will be very thankfully received by those men who have been deprived of regular work.

In this way quorums may largely solve their own problems. But should you be unable to place any of your members, then report to the committeeman in your ward. Here in the city stakes such a committeeman is already appointed. He will then report those names to other groups, with a view of placing the men in employment. What a mighty work lies before us! What possibilities there are to help the unemployed through quorum activity alone.

Here is an appeal from one of these groups already functioning:

Somebody, directly or indirectly, is keeping you employed. Let us see that our brother is employed. If we love our brother we are our brother's keeper.

There are three months yet before winter. Let each one of us determine that we will do our part. Let us invest in our brother's service. These times we are living in, test us. They determine what kind of stuff we are made of. These times should draw us closely together. Adversities are not mistakes. Ask yourself this question: "Do I feel bad for those out of employment? How badly do I feel? Bad enough to create work?" You will help stabilize this whole depressed world if you will spend what you can now for something you need.

The committee of quorum workers then lists suggestions for those who can possibly create work. Here are a few of these timely reminders: Remodeling your house, the bath room, the bed room, the attic; remodeling an addition, making more attractive the exterior of the house; cleaning wood work, repairing the roof. Work in the garden, wood-cutting, snow shoveling, removing rubbish, automobile repairing, trucking, work for the woman in kitchen, living room, etc., etc.

If you can find something that you need done tomorrow, report it in your quorum, and the committee will name some man who can do it well and thereby receive some employment.

In this manner the quorums may become a potent factor in rendering service during this unemployment period. In doing so they will also foster brotherhood and fraternity. This one duty alone should occupy a part of the activity meeting for weeks to come.

Lawlessness: In regard to obeying law the Latter-day Saint view is absolute. You have heard quoted to-day from the *Articles of Faith* that: "We believe in obeying, honouring and sustaining the law." No Latter-day Saint, if he is true to his calling, will be a violator of any of the laws of his country.

Applying this to the prohibition problem, I will say that no true Latter-day Saint will be found violating the Eighteenth Amendment. He who buys or sells intoxicating liquor, who serves it at social functions, or traffics with it in any manner, is untrue to the standards of the Church and disloyal to his country.

THE PROPER TRAINING OF YOUTH

In the last named problem, the proper training of childhood and youth, the Church is a mighty factor, especially when all its available forces are in active operation. And no more vital question has ever come before any nation. Of the importance of the problem, an interviewer of the president of the United States approaching the question of "Child Health and Protection," as presented in the recent White House Conference, writes as follows: He and the president were sitting in the Lincoln room. The question of unemployment had been discussed, the question of financial depression, lawlessness, and so on.

"But all this seemed to be just a sort of prelude to the thing I really wanted to talk to him about. Even unemployment is, in the long pull, a question of passing import. It, with a hundred other things, is a matter only of the present—to be met and solved and all but forgotten within the limits of a single administration. And I knew that here in this Lincoln room had been dreamed a vision that would light up a century or ten centuries—a vision of a new life and a new chance for the children of the future. It was something that would belong to history.

(Continued on page 713)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1931

EDITORIAL

DEATH OF ELDER HUGH J. CANNON

ANOTHER mighty man "has fallen in Israel." This time it is Elder Hugh J. Cannon, Editor of the *Improvement Era*, the organ of the M. I. A. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was called home on October 6th, 1931.

The whole life of Elder Cannon was one of Church activity and service. Born January 19th, 1870, the son of the late President George Q. and Sarah Jenne Cannon; he was given a common school education by his cousin, George M. Cannon, and then finished his education at the University of Utah. He was but twenty years of age when he was called to fill a mission to Germany. About eighteen months after arriving there, his brother David fell a victim to disease and died in his arms. He accompanied the remains to Utah. Five years later he was called to membership on the General Board of the Deseret Sunday School Union. Here he served for over seven years. He was called in 1901 to return to Germany to preside over that mission, which he did for three and a half years with wonderful success. While there, he was notified that he had been selected to be president of the Liberty Stake of Zion, newly organized. This was on February 26th, 1904. Here he served until 1920, when the First Presidency called him to accompany Apostle David O. McKay on an inspection trip of all the foreign missions of the Church. It required thirteen months to complete this trip, for it took them around the world, extending into China, Japan, Armenia and the islands of the sea.

In 1925, a third call came to him to labour in the Swiss-German Mission, to again act as president. Three years later, and while on this mission, he was notified of his appointment as associate editor of the *Improvement Era*, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Elder Edward H. Anderson. This position he was filling with most remarkable success at the time of his death.

Elder Cannon was first married to Miss Ellen Wilcken who passed away over twenty years ago and whose children are, Mrs. Purcell, Mrs. Ruth Marshall, Charles Wilcken Cannon, Mrs. Constance C. Wilson, Miss Rosannah Cannon. Also surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Sarah Richards Cannon, a daughter of Apostle George F. Richards, and the following children, George R., Alice R., Maxwell R., and Dean Cannon, all of whom mourn the loss of a beloved husband and father.

Elder Cannon's home life was ideal, the home of a true Latter-day Saint. The wish of one was the wish of all. Neither cloud

shadowed it nor frown chilled it; sickness might invade it; disappointment might enter it; severe pain might smite it; but the peace and love, the "good-night kisses" and the happy morning greetings of the united and joyous household were never interrupted nor disturbed. With a loving nature he lavished his heart's best gifts on her whom God gave to him. If words of consolation could be effectively spoken, we would all speak them in sympathy for her whose heart is broken by this blow. If words of counsel were needed by these children, we would speak them gladly. But counsel is not needed, for the heritage of a wise father's life is wealth for his offspring. He leaves no riches, such as the world counts riches, to wife and children, but he does leave a heritage which gold could never buy, a stainless reputation and a deathless name.

The saints of the European Mission send their sympathies to the stricken family, although realizing they are buoyed up in an abiding assurance the Gospel brings that their loved one has gone to continue his missionary activities in a sphere of progression and eternal advancement.—J. H. W.

A SOLUTION FOR PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS

(Concluded from page 711)

"Mr. President," I began, "you said recently that if we could have but one generation of properly born, trained, educated and healthy children, a thousand other problems of government would vanish."

"One generation would do it," he answered, his eyes flashing their strange light of sincerity and eagerness.

"We are facing a changing world of science and invention," he went on. "No twelve months go by but that there is some great advancement, some discovery, some development, in the field of practical science. It is all so swift and changing that we cannot begin to follow it. Take the one matter of rays, all but unknown a generation ago. To-day the harnessing of certain of these strange elements makes possible our radios and a score of other inventions.

"Fifteen years ago there were less than a hundred industrial research laboratories, operated at a total cost of perhaps a million dollars a year. Now there are more than a thousand of these laboratories where pure science becomes the handmaid of invention. One great organization alone is spending five million dollars annually for experimental purposes and research.

"So it is that before our very eyes a new world of science and industry is being built and constantly rebuilt. It is a changing world, with new and changing problems. What, for instance,

will our grandchildren do with the added leisure that efficient machinery, and its consequent shorter hours of labour will give them? Will this future generation have the discipline and education and the spiritual upbringing and the fine moral background to withstand the new temptations of the high speed city life that will be theirs?

"Only children of a new generation—a new America—can stand against this future world. First of all, their health must be looked after. This civilization would decay in a generation of physical weaklings; then comes their play environment, their schooling, their discipline, their morals. These are but a few items in this endless and many-sided task of seeing that a new generation is ready for the new world.

THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS

"One of the biggest of all problems is to drive in this idea of the necessity of properly born, trained, educated and healthy moral children to the voters and officials of America. This Child Health Conference is but a start—but only that. We must keep it alive and burning. This conference was the aftermath of years of investigation and experience of the best and most devoted of Americans. It evolved a 'Charter for Children' of nineteen points, which needs to be in every household and every government office. We must follow this national conference with a series of state conferences, then group, and finally individual town and city conferences, and the 'Charter for Children' must be drawn into the activities of government and social institutions.

"Think what this New Generation, built upon that constitution, will mean to the single problem of the young criminal! The present rate of criminal increase is disheartening beyond measure. To-day there are more than one hundred thousand criminals in our federal and state prisons, and there are that many more criminals at large who should be behind bars.

"This New Generation of children, healthy, trained and mentally inspired, would go a long way towards solving all this. . . . We must see that the children's roots have proper soil to put their precious tendrils into. City children must not be denied grass and flowers, fields and streams—all imaginative surroundings that are a part of nature.

"And of tremendous importance, too, are the million and a half especially gifted children, scattered by the winds of chance among our forty-five million children."

For a long moment the president hesitated:

"Ten years will see the start of this New Generation. We can move swiftly after that. . . . Why, to-day we think little of spending seven hundred million dollars annually on our two great arms of defense—and yet it is with difficulty that we vote

a twentieth part of that sum towards national health and national education. . . .

"A new world—a new America," says the correspondent, "dreamed out here in this study that was Lincoln's. Not a world of steel and electricity and speed, of science and invention—an engineer's world; but a humanitarian's world of normal, healthy, happy children, who will solve the thousand and one problems of government and life.

"A New Generation. A dream that will make history."

Fellow workers, how can the Church help to bring about that dream? Since last February these quorums and groups have been mustered into service. Thousands—twenty-five thousand officers and teachers in one organization alone; three times fifteen hundred men in bishoprics, all united in making a survey of six hundred thousand people. What for? With a view of finding that boy over there who is not interested in any church organization; that girl who is being enticed away from the path of virtue and integrity. And I am glad to report to you that, with only one or two exceptions in the one hundred and four stakes, before the year has passed this survey has been completed.

UTAH WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

In one of the reports in the Utah White House Conference I read this paragraph:

"The churches are looking after those who come into their midst, teaching spirituality and morality, but they have not yet made contact with the delinquent."

Six months ago your bishops and high-councilmen met in the Assembly Hall, and there received a plan by which the Quorum presidents, the Aaronic Priesthood, the Mutual presidents, and the Sunday School workers might all combine their efforts with the view of bringing in that delinquent. Let us go back home from this conference determined to be more active in looking after those who are unenrolled in our groups. Thus may we unite with this nation in its noblest of all efforts to produce a better citizenship.

"The nation is safe as long as men get to their work and back again, each day with a cheerful smile. So long as there are fathers who rejoice in what they do, and find their home worthwhile, the Stars and Stripes will wave on high, and liberty will never die."

God help us, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, upon whom rests the responsibility of feeding and clothing and educating the children; upon whom rests the responsibility of helping our brother in need; on whom rests the responsibility of teaching faith to the people of the world; on whom rests the responsibility of bearing witness that God has spoken, and that He has established His Church among men for the bringing about,

with speedy achievement, a knowledge of the fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man.

I pray God to give us power to consummate this great mission of honour, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.—Address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., at the afternoon session of the Ensign Stake Conference, Sunday, September 15th, 1931.

DOWLAIS MALE VOICE CHOIR

ELDER JAMES H. WALLIS

THE Dowlais Male Voice Choir of South Wales has a record that is unapproachable. Its trophies of loving cups, medals, presentations, testimonials, cash prizes, would cover the walls of a room. It has rarely been vanquished. The voices are among the best in the Welsh National Eisteddfod. Eighty-two of them



DOWLAIS MALE VOICE CHOIR AND MEMBERS.

furnished the singing for the Sunday evening services of the recent Conference of the Welsh District held at Merthyr-Tydfil. The Miner's Hall, in which the conference was held, was packed. By actual count there were over eight hundred people present, nearly seven hundred of them non-"Mormon." It was the largest conference ever held in Wales. The singing was gratuitous, in compliment to Elder Evan Arthur of Salt Lake City, a Welshman by birth, a tenor singer by nature, who has been labouring in Wales, and who is dearly beloved by the Welsh people. This

body of gifted soloists sat and listened with intense interest to an exposition of "Mormonism" by Patriarch James H. Wallis and President A. William Lund of the British Mission. Not one of this body of wonderful singers was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and yet, all were attached to some religious body. They had presented to them some of the fruits of "Mormonism," as evidenced in the enriched lives of Welsh people who had accepted this unpopular doctrine and gone to Utah; they heard those principles simply, but fervently explained to them. They sat and listened and enjoyed the services; they remained behind to find out more about the doctrines and of Utah.

Their gifted conductor, Mr. Evan Thomas, is unpretentious and very approachable. He has abundantly proved to the musical world his genius for choral training, and he has made history. Under his magnetic power, the choir has carved its name deeply on the scroll of brilliant choral achievements. It has been in existence for twenty-one years, and has had but the one conductor. It has sung before royalty, lords, dukes and mayors, in England and Wales. The prize money it has won in Eisteddfod contests totals about £1,750 (\$8,750.00). Mr. Thomas as its conductor, has been the recipient of six silver loving cups, one of which had to be won three successive times in order to be retained. A large oil painting of himself was given to him on another occasion, five gold medals, five oak chairs, metronomes, batons, etc. Each member of the chorons has a magnificent presentation medal, as a special event.

The organization has an enrolled membership of one hundred and fifty voices, but owing to the industrial depression of Dowlais, and immediate neighbouring towns, this number was diminished to eighty-five voices. The choir has competed at all the prominent Eisteddfodau, attended by some of the most eminent musicians of the day. To gain the chief honour at the Royal Welsh National Eisteddfod is indeed the highest ambition of every choir throughout the principality of Wales, and an honour that is also eagerly sought by the best English choirs. Therefore, the two victories gained by the Dowlais choir in the National Festival are of course its greatest achievements, and the adjudications which were delivered on those two memorable occasions deserve to be written in letters of gold on the pages of the choir's phenomenal history. At the Ammanford Eisteddfod in 1922, thirteen choirs competed. The adjudicators were Dr. Coward, Dr. T. Hopkin Evans, Professor E. T. Davis and Mr. Cyril Jenkins. The singing lasted from noon until 6 p.m. The test pieces were "Jesus of Nazareth," by Dr. Parry, and "The Sea Fever," by Jenkins. It was thirty minutes later when the adjudicators mounted the platform and announced their award. Dowlais led with a total of 183 points, Swansea next with 182. Dr. Davis, in

making the award said, "In the whole history of musical competition, there never has been a keener competition, and it was nothing short of remarkable." The *South Wales Daily News*, commenting on the contest, said, "The adjudicators found enthusiastic endorsement from the huge audience of twenty thousand people, who sat in the pavilion for over six hours."

At the Pontypool National Eisteddfod in 1924, eight choirs appeared on the platform. The test pieces were "Dominus Illuminatio Mea," by Walford Davies, and "Hereward the Wake," by S. E. Lovatt. The adjudicators were Dr. Vaughan Thomas, Sir Richard Terry, Dr. T. Hopkin Evans, Dr. David Evans, and Sir Walford Davies. Sir Richard Terry gave the adjudication, and his remarks on the Dowlais Choir were as follows: "The adjudicators," he said, "were very much impressed by the rendering of the opening piece by the Dowlais Choir. The choir had that requisite atmosphere of solemnity at the start, but the diction was not quite so clear as that of the preceding choir. Their tuning however, was excellent, and on page five, magnificent. The rendition of page six of the first piece was most arresting in regard to pathos and incisiveness. Quite a high level of poetry was received. It was altogether a highly sensitive and temperamental reading. There was an individuality about the rendering and the realization of what the mystic note meant. In the second piece there was shown a realization of the poetry of words as well as of vocal phrasing. While the vocal tone was all that could be desired, there was a little failure in the change of mood which the music demanded. The rendition lacked something of the inside and the sense of mood, but technically the concluding part was almost a *tour de force* (a notable feature of strength and skill)."

In this short history taken from a manuscript of nearly forty pages, I have endeavoured to give a few of the successes this choir gained in the Eisteddfodau arena in the principality of Wales, of which Dowlais can feel proud.

At Rhymney in 1912, Doctor Walford Davies said, "I shall never forget the singing of this choir as long as I live."

At Pontypool in 1913, Doctor Adams said, "I can only compare this choir to a grand organ."

At the Wrexham National Eisteddfod in 1912, Doctor Walford Davies said, "I am requested by Mr. Granville Bantock to say that he will never forget the rendering of 'The Glories of our Blood and State' by this choir; that ghostly creep to death thrilled him;" and Granville Bantock was the composer of this piece.

The late Dr. McNaught, commenting in the *Musical Times* on the Male Voice Competition in the Wrexham National of 1912 said, in reference to the Dowlais choir, "After all the other choirs had sung, this was the finest achievement of all."

At Treorchy in 1927, Doctor Percy Hill said, "Here was excellent unanimity. There was interpretation with plenty of colour. The bass were refined with carrying quality and round tone. A magnificent climax."

The members and leaders of the Church are most grateful to this great choir for their inspirational music which will never be forgotten by those who attended the recent Welsh conference. It was a musical feast as well as a time of rejoicing for all.

HULL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE saints and their friends of the Hull District were privileged to attend one of the most spirited conferences held there for for many years. The conference convened October the 18th, at the Metropole Hall, Hull.

On Saturday the 17th, a faith-promoting testimony meeting was held preceding the giving of blessings. The Spirit of the Lord was abundantly poured out upon the saints as they received their blessings. Patriarch Wallis gave forty-five blessings to the saints, there being fifty-one who made application.

The hearts of the people were filled with the Spirit of the Lord during the Sunday morning's session. Vital instructions were given the Priesthood holders and Auxiliary workers in their respective work by President A. William Lund and Patriarch James H. Wallis, and Sisters Josephine B. Lund and Elizabeth T. Wallis.

During the afternoon session the Authorities of the Church were presented and sustained by the vote of the saints. President Karl C. Durham was released and Elder Thomas A. Lambert sustained as president of the Hull District. The pageant, "Salvation for the Dead," was beautifully presented in an impressive and sacred manner. By the use of a veil and lighting effect, the "Spirit World" was portrayed very effectively. It had an appealing effect upon the congregation to put forth an effort in seeking the genealogies and doing the temple work for their dead ancestors.

At the evening services Sister Lund, and Sister Wallis, Patriarch Wallis and President Lund held the audience spellbound with their convincing and forceful testimonies of the divinity of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following were among those in attendance: British Mission President and Sister A. William Lund, of the Mission Office; Patriarch and Sister James H. Wallis, of the European Mission; District President Karl C. Durham (released), President Thomas A. Lambert, and Elders Clarence R. Ellsworth, Wendell W. Taylor, S. Albert Smith, Marion J. Olsen, John Bunderson, Ferris H. Allen, Dallas A. Berrett and Robert L. Bridge, all of the Hull District; Elder Percy L. Matthews, London District; President C.

Horton Transtrum, Leeds District; President James C. Rawlinson and Elder W. Cleon Skousen, Sheffield District.

ELDER CLARENCE R. ELLSWORTH, District Clerk.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Doings in the Districts: *Leeds*—The Skipton unorganized Branch saints, Leeds District, held a social and concert, on October 16th. The social was well attended by the saints and fifty of their friends. All enjoyed the splendid program and the refreshments that were served.

The Batley Branch saints, Leeds District, had a tea and social on October 17th. Refreshments and lunch were served early in the evening after which a fine program was given by the saints. A record crowd was in attendance and all enjoyed the activities.

Liverpool—A joint social of the Burnley and Accrington Branches was held September 29th, in the Burnley Assembly Room. The feature of the evening was a debate between the M. I. A. teams of both branches. A judge's decision was given to the Burnley debaters. Other items on the program were equally as entertaining. The evening's social was a great success.

The Blackburn M. I. A. debating team defeated the Preston M. I. A. team in an elimination contest held on October 3rd. The Blackburn team will debate with the Burnley team at the "All Auxiliary Contest" to decide the final honours, which will be held in November. Since the introduction of the debates, the attendance at the Union Meetings has been greatly increased.

London—On October 1st, the South London Branch Relief Society entertained the members and their friends at a social and dance. The evening was partly devoted to honouring Elder Harold E. Dean, who has recently been called to preside over the Bristol District.

The branches of Watford and St. Albans sponsored a social and dance given in the Watford Trade Union Hall, on October 16th. The evening's program included a sketch, produced by the members of the Bee-Hive class of the St. Albans Branch. The dance music was furnished by an orchestra composed of Elders and saints, under the direction of Elder Glen T. Dixon.

BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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